

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3060
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
EPF SCHEME FOR BEEDI WORKERS .
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme was extended to beedi workers all over the country in 1977;
- (b) if so, the total number of beedi workers in the country and the number out of them covered by the EPF Scheme as on date, State-wise; and
- (c) the reasons for poor coverage and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure EPF coverage to all beedi workers on a time-bound programme?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) There are a total number of 40, 55, 893 beedi worker who have been issued identity cards. The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions, Act, 1952 is applicable to all establishment engaged in manufacture of beedis employing 20 or more persons. As on 31.03.2004, 4158 beedi establishments are covered and 17,96,358 workers have been enrolled as subscribers, under the Act. The region-wise details are at Annexure-'A'.

The problems in covering the beedi workers are

- (i) Beedi manufacturing is basically in unorganized sector.
- (ii) Home workers in outlying areas.
- (iii) While entire family is engaged in beedi manufacturing, only head of the family is registered as EPF member.

However, all efforts are made by the EPFO to extend the coverage to beedi workers.

ANNEXURE-A

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (b) & (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.-3060 for answers on 20.12.2004

Membership in bidi establishments - Position as on 31.3.2004

S.No.	Region	Establishments	Members
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Exempted Un- exempted	Total Exempted Un- exempted	Total
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1. Andhra Pradesh	0 393 393	0 423474 423474
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2. West Bengal	0	216	216	0	366946	366946
3. Tamilnadu	0	2083	2083	0	298975	298975
4. Kamataka	0	276	276	0	252661	252661
5. Madhya Pradesh	0	256	256	0	150807	150807
6. Maharastra	2	150	152	4592	87313	91905
7 Kerala	0	126	126	0	61030	61030
8. Orrisa	0	181	181	0	58845	58845
9. Tharkhand	0	38	38	0	29780	29780
10. Bihar	0	27	27	0	28246	28246
11. Raisthan	0	133	133	0	13668	13668
12. Utter Pradesh	0	153	153	0	9415	9415
13. Chattisgarh	0	43	43	0	8250	8250
14. N.East Region	0	21	21	0	1254	1254
15. Guirat	0	60	60	0	1102	1102
16. Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Himanchal Pr.	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	4,156	4,158	4,592	1,791,766	1,796,358